



*The Big Sky Country*

EXHIBIT 10  
DATE 3-22-07  
HB 5

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN C. BOHLINGER  
HOUSE DISTRICT 14

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ETHICS

Governor Marc Racicot  
Governor's Office, Room 204, State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59601  
Dear Governor Marc:

My two terms as a member of Montana's House of Representatives has made me more conscious of a number of things, however the greatest of which is constituent concern and the public outrage over bureaucratic arrogance.

There was an article published in today's Billings Gazette that made my blood boil and my phone ring. The article was titled "Plans for mental hospital OK'd despite objections." The article went on to explain that despite strong objections by advocates for the mentally ill, a state board has approved the sale of \$26.5 million in bonds to build a new state hospital at Warm Springs.

Advocates for the mentally ill say the new hospital is a costly boondoggle and that the money would be better spent on mental health programs in local communities. I have visited with mental health professionals, as well as former patients of Warm Springs who tell me that the most cost effective and humane way of treating mental illness is found in mental health programs in local communities.

Government is out of touch when they let the bureaucracy have its way with the taxpayers dollars, in spite of the objections of professional people in the field. Insensitivity and bureaucratic arrogance is not acceptable and must be stopped.

I have discussed this matter with Representatives Royal Johnson and Bruce Simon and they concur with me, we would like you to insist that the bond sale and construction of a new 135 bed hospital at Warm Springs be delayed until this matter can be decided when our Legislature convenes in 1997.

Sincerely,

John C. Bohlinger

# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

MARC RACICOT  
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0801

July 19, 1996

Representative John C. Bohlinger  
2233 Remington Square  
Billings MT 59102

Dear John:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the construction of a new mental health facility at Warm Springs. As a legislator, you know that on complex and difficult issues such as this, reasonable and well meaning people can disagree.

I can assure you that long before the issue was brought before the legislature, a great deal of time was spent by this administration in consulting with members of the mental health community and evaluating various options regarding the future needs and structure of Montana's entire mental health system. Ultimately, it was our conclusion that as Montana moves forward with a comprehensive mental health managed care system, there would be a continuing need for approximately 135 long term care beds for the state's most seriously mentally ill. Further, based on our analysis of the various options, we concluded that as part of Montana's long range plans for mental health services, the most appropriate course would be to construct a new consolidated mental health facility on the Warm Springs campus.

All of this information was included in our budget request to the 1995 legislature. As you have noted, the issue of constructing a new mental health facility at Warm Springs was extensively debated by the legislature. There were numerous public hearings where mental health professionals and advocacy groups were able to present their views to the legislature. After listening to the testimony and conducting their own analysis, the legislature did pass the proposal to construct the new mental health facility.

Part of what disturbs me with the current rash of news articles and the suit filed by the Montana Advocacy Program is the implication that this administration is attempting to inappropriately keep patients institutionalized. In fact, through our mental health managed care program we will be creating powerful incentives throughout the system to place people in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting. Further, as a critical part of our plan we will be reducing the current average daily population at Montana State

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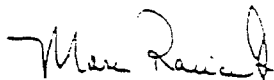
Hospital from 205 to 135. As was presented to the legislature, a significant amount of funds for new community services will become available as we downsize the hospital and move people back into the community. However, we also believe we have an equal obligation to ensure that those individuals who continue to require long term care receive those services in the most appropriate setting.

Finally, although appropriate care and treatment is the most critical factor, there are financial considerations that simply have to be taken into account. The current facilities at Montana State Hospital are not only inadequate from a treatment perspective, but are incredibly inefficient. Our proposal to the legislature included projected savings of \$2.1 million per year just from improved facility efficiencies such as reduced utility costs. The reduction in the hospital's average daily population to 135 will generate an additional \$5.4 million. Once the new facility is completed, the Xanthopoulos building will be turned over to the Corrections Department for a savings of \$37 million that otherwise would need to be spent on construction of new prison facilities.

I do appreciate your thoughts on this complex issue and can assure you that we are always open to new ideas and perspectives on any issue. The involvement and advice of the mental health consumers, advocates and providers has been extremely helpful in designing a comprehensive mental health system for our state, and we have made very significant changes based directly on their input. It is certainly my intent to continue their involvement and to maintain an open and meaningful dialogue.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



MARC RACICOT  
Governor